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Survey of Oyen.



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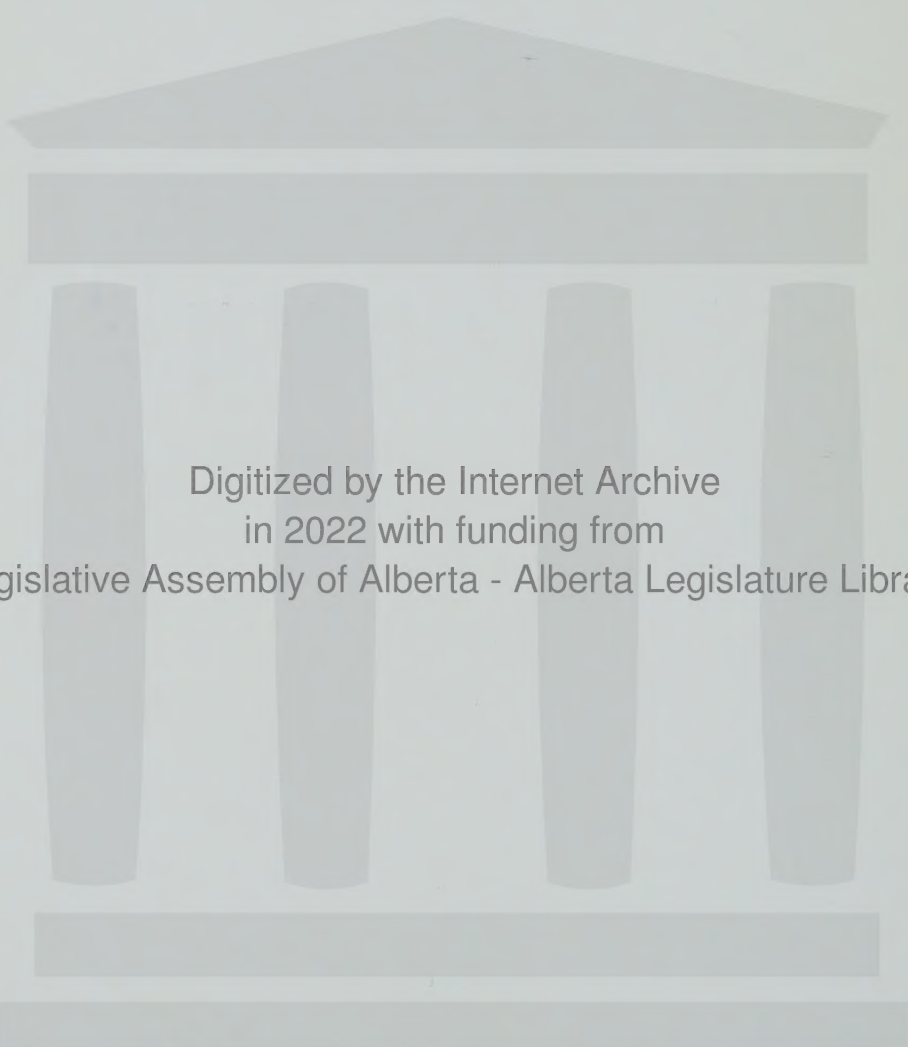
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GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA



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Town of Oyen

July, 1970

1. LOCATION

The Town of Oyen is located in Section 33, Township 27, Range 4, West of the Fourth Meridian. It is in Special Area Number 3 located within Census Division Number 4, approximately 63 miles east of Hanna. The Town is situated on Highway No. 41, two miles south of point where Highway No. 41 intersects with Highway No. 9, which is one of the major east-west routes from Alberta to Saskatchewan. The Town is also on the Canadian National Railways line between Hanna and Kindersley.

2. ALTITUDE

2,521 feet Latitude 51 degrees 20 minutes Longitude 110 degrees 31 minutes.

3. TEMPERATURE

Average Summer	66.5 degrees F.
Average Winter	16.3 degrees F.
Average Annual	43.0 degrees F.

4. RAINFALL

Average Annual Rainfall	11.35 inches
Average Annual Snowfall	32.60 inches
Average Annual Precipitation	14.61 inches

(Note: Sections 3 and 4 are averages for Medicine Hat)

5. GEOLOGY

The Town of Oyen is situated in the major topographic unit referred to as the Alberta Couteau. The rocks underlying the glacial deposits of ground moraine and hummocky moraine consist of clay sandstones, sandy shales, and clay shales and were deposited during an age termed Upper Cretaceous. These deposits are referred to as the Belly River formation and are of fresh and brackish water origin from sediments that were deposited along the shore of a sea that lay to the south-east. Some of the significant petroleum and coal deposits in other areas of the Province are associated with the Cretaceous.

6. SOIL

Oyen is in the dark brown soil zone.

Vegetation:

The vegetation is predominantly grassland, typical of the prairie portion of southern Alberta. However, bluffs of trees are found in small isolated pockets where moisture conditions are more favourable.

Soil Profile:

The normal profile has a surface horizon that averages about 10 inches, is brown in color and consists of brown loam and silt loam. The sub-soil is usually brown to gray in color, and the lime layer is found at depths of 9 to 22 inches below the surface. Generally the depth of the lime layer is considered as indicative of the efficiency of rain penetration.

Fertility:

The soils in this area are usually fertile and well supplied with plant food, although as a rule they do not contain as much organic matter and nitrogen as soils in other areas of the Province. Therefore good soil management involving crop rotation and the use of fertilizers is essential for adequate replacement of depleted plant nutrients and the maintenance of organic matter.

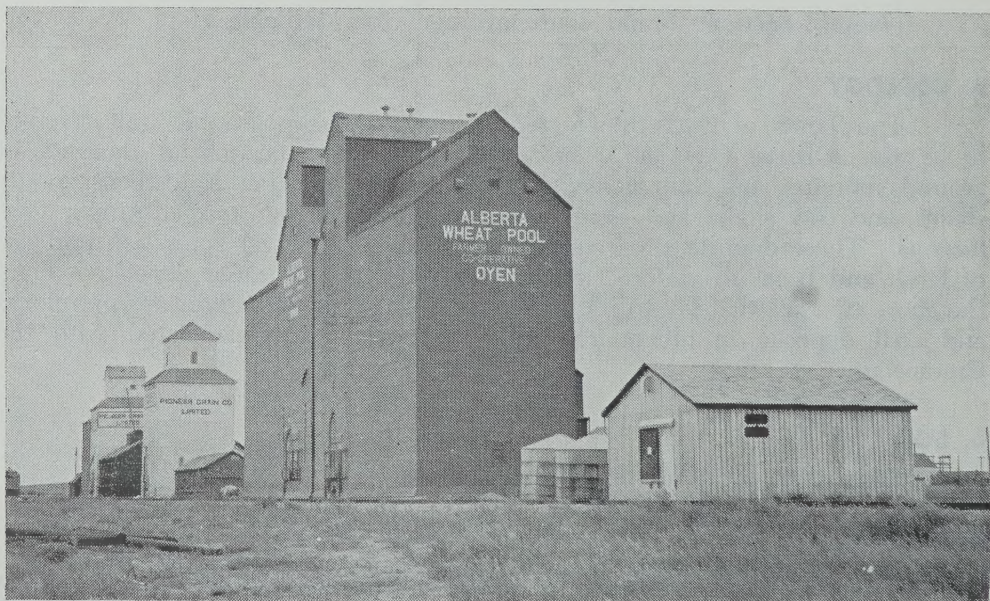
Land Use:

Wheat is the principal crop grown in arable areas, but considerably more diversification is possible and should be practised to maintain soil fertility.

The areas of non-arable land are generally good for pasture and ranching is evident.

7. HISTORY

The settlement of the community started in 1910 and received its name from a Norwegian settler, Andrew Oyen, who sold his homestead for a townsite. The area was populated by settlers arriving from Ontario, Washington, Iowa, Idaho and Nebraska. The end of the rail line was at Kindersley and the rest of the journey, close to 70 miles, was mostly done by walking.



A row of elevators beside the track testifies to the grain productivity of the district.

The townsite was surveyed in 1912 and the same year the Mounted Police Post was established with Constables Brian Walker and Charlie Stewart. The religious services were held in the homes of the settlers with the first preacher being George Steele, and in 1915 the first church was erected. The first teacher began classes in 1911-1912. The arrival of the railway in 1913 gave strong impetus to the growth of the community. The first hotel was built the same year the first newspaper also started, Oyen News.

The community was incorporated as a village on January 17, 1913. Town Status was achieved on August 17, 1965.

8. LIVING CONDITIONS

Oyen is a thriving town in south-eastern Alberta and is the health, educational, judicial and shopping centre for a large community.

It has wide streets with well maintained buildings and mercury vapor street lights.

For the sportsman there is good hunting of ducks, geese, upland game birds and big game.

The town is growing steadily with many new homes being built.

The total of building permits and their values are:

1967 - 17 — \$249,000.00

1968 - 21 — 312,000.00

1969 - 10 — 175,000.00

There are 320 residences and 50 businesses in town. The rent for an average home is between \$75. and \$90. per month.



A view of the main street of Oyen.

9. ADMINISTRATION

The town is governed by a mayor elected for a two-year term and six councillors. The town affairs are administered by a town manager in accordance with the policies set by the council.

10. LAWS AND REGULATIONS

R.C.M.P. detachment in Oyen polices the town and surrounding community, with one Corporal and three Constables.

Regulations:

Plans for all new buildings, repairs of buildings, removal of buildings must comply with local building and zoning regulations and be approved by Council. A permit must be issued before proceeding.

Electrical installations must comply with the requirements of the Alberta Electrical Protection Act.

Sanitary installations must comply with the requirements of the Provincial Health Regulations.

Natural gas installations must comply with the requirements of the Alberta Gas Protection Act.

11. FIRE PROTECTION

The fire brigade consists of a Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, two captains and 20 volunteers.

Equipment:

One 1961 Ford — 450 GPM with a 700 gallon tank; 800 feet 2½ inch hose; 400 feet 1½ inch hose. The truck is equipped with all necessary accessories and protective equipment for six firemen.

1948 Ford pumper — 200 GPM is used for rural area and manned by the Oyen Volunteer Fire Department.

Water Supply:

Obtained from wells and two reservoirs, one 300,000 gallon storage tank and a 50,000 gallon reservoir operated on a pneumatic system. There are 25 fire hydrants located throughout the town.

12. TAX STRUCTURE

Land, 100% value	\$ 144,410.00
Building and Improvements	661,960.00
Other	387,520.00
<hr/>	
1969 Net Assessment	\$1,193,890.00

Mill Rate:

Education	Hospital	Health Unit	Municipal	Total
38.3	4.8	3.2	31.7	78.0

13. AREAS

Total area of Town	640.00 acres
Streets and Roads	94.21 acres
Parks & Playground, Recreation & Cemetery	22.96 acres
Schools and Hospitals	27.21 acres

Miles of Street, Road and Lanes:

Provincial main	nil miles
Streets and Roads	7.36 miles
Public Lanes and Alleys	4.20 miles

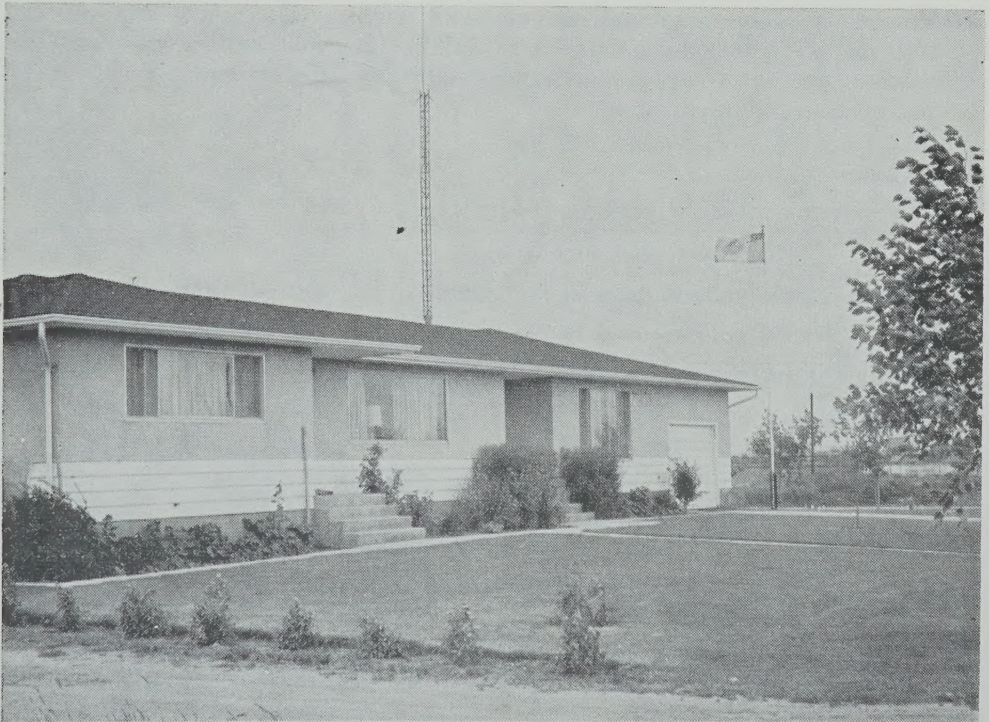
There are approximately 3.7 miles of concrete sidewalks.

14. SEWER AND WATER MAIN MILEAGE

Storm Sewers90 miles
Sanitary Sewers	6.05 miles
Water Mains	5.30 miles

15. POWER

Three phase 60 cycle power is supplied to the town under a franchise by the Canadian Utilities, Limited.



This attractive structure is headquarters for the RCMP for the town.

Residential Rates:

First 30 KWH or less per month	\$2.60
Next 20 KWH per month	4.2 c per KWH
Next 150 KWH per month	3.2 c per KWH
Next 400 KWH per month	2.25c per KWH
All over 600 KWH per month	1.7 c per KWH
Minimum monthly bill: shall be \$2.60 per month.	

General Service:

First 40 KWH per month per Kilowatt of billing demand	6.6c per KWH
Next 160 KWH per month per Kilowatt of billing demand	3.2c per KWH
Next 200 KWH per month per Kilowatt of billing demand	2.3c per KWH
In Excess of 400 KWH per month per KW of billing demand	1.8c per KWH

Minimum monthly bill: For customers having a billing demand of 5KW and less, the minimum monthly bill shall be \$3.10.

For customers having a billing demand in excess of 5KW the minimum monthly bill shall be \$1.20 per KW of billing demand.

16. WATER

Water is obtained from three wells, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from town and ranging in depth from 29 feet to 425 feet. Temperature of the water is between 38 degrees and 42 degrees in both summer and winter. There is a total storage capacity of 350,000 gallons, a 50,000 gallon reservoir and a new 300,000 gallon water storage reservoir and a pneumatic pressure system to create 45-65 pounds pressure on the system.

Water Rates:

Minimum monthly charge	\$6.00
First 3,000 gallons used in one month	6.00
Next 50,000 gallons used in one month	25c per 100 gallons
Over 53,000 gallons used in one month	15c per 100 gallons

Water bills are sent out every two months.

Sewer Charges:

Minimum monthly charge is \$2.00.

Water Analysis:

Total solids	370
Ignition loss	160
Hardness	274
Sulphates	50
Chlorides	4
Alkalinity	231

Nature of Alkalinity, Bicarbonate of lime and magnesium

Nitrates	4.5
Nitrites	Trace
Iron08
Fluoride28

Remarks: Water is chemically suitable for human consumption.

17. GAS

Natural Gas is supplied to the Town under a franchise by Northwestern Utilities, Limited, who purchase it from Alberta Gas Trunk Line.

Rates:

Rate 1 General Rate:

Available to all Customers:

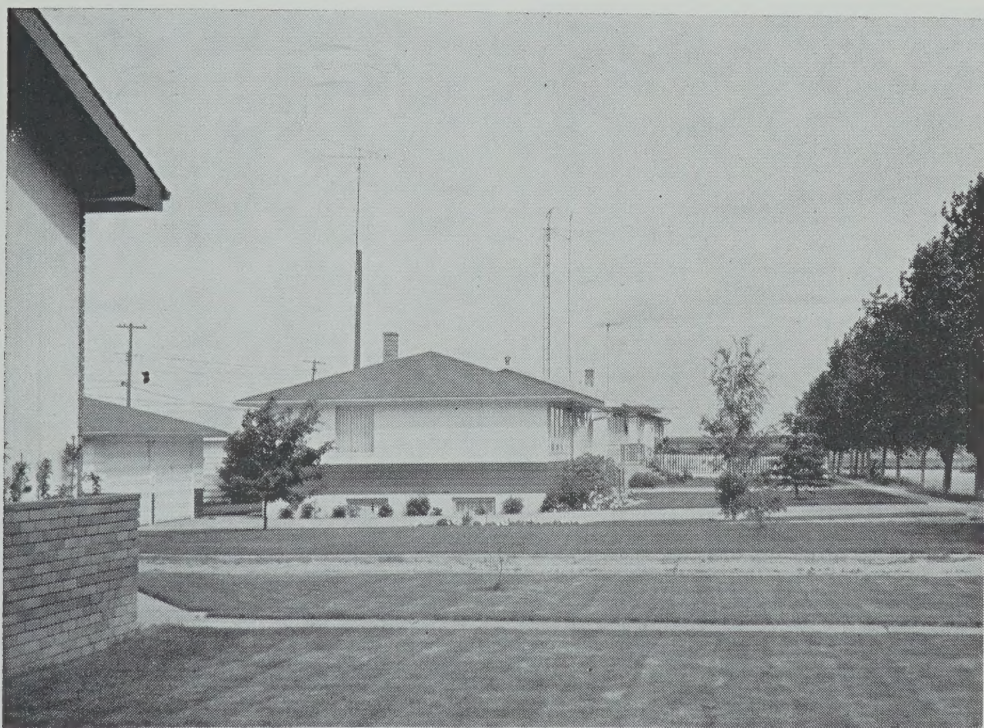
First 2,000 cu. ft.	\$2.50 per month
All additional cu. ft.65 per thousand cu. ft.

Rate 2 Optional Rate:

Available on annual contract to all customers whose annual consumption is more than 540 cu. ft.

Fixed charge	\$12.50 per month
Plus commodity charge40 per thousand cu. ft.
Minimum monthly charge	12.50

The customer is actually billed on the heat value of the gas, called therms. The gas used in Oyen runs around 986 BTU per cu. ft.



Modern well kept homes line the residential streets of Oyen.

18. L.P. GAS

Heat value - 2,500 BTU per cu. ft.

100 lb. cylinders - \$6.00

Bulk - .12c-17.5c per gallon depending on load

Storage capacity - 24,000 gallons

19. DIESEL FUEL

Price - 25.7c-26.7c per gallon

Heating Oil - 21.2c-22.2c per gallon

Storage capacity - 38,900 gallons

Bulk sotrage for gas - 38,500 gallons.

The heat value is approximately 140,000 BTU per gallon.

20. COAL

Very little coal is used by the town residents. Location of the nearest mine is RoseLynn.

21. LOCAL RESOURCES

Sand and gravel, straw, wheat, barley, oats, rye, flax, mustard, dairy products, poultry products, horses, cattle, hogs.



Oyen serves as a distribution and service point for the district for such commodities as bottled gas.

22. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SERVICES

FEDERAL: Post Office, R.C.M.P. Detachment.

PROVINCIAL: Court House, Liquor Vendor, Alberta Government Telephones, Superintendent of Schools, Fish and Wildlife office, Special Areas Office, Department of Highways and Transport (maintenance depot), Health Unit.

MUNICIPAL: Town Office, Municipal Hospital, Medical Dental Building, Library, Fire Hall, Town Shop, Council Chamber, Recreation Board.

23. HEALTH SERVICES

A new 34 bed, 5 bassinet hospital was opened April, 1970. The staff consists of a Matron, 5 graduate nurses, 4 part-time graduate nurses, 4 Certified nursing aides, 1 Laboratory and X-ray technician and 11 other members. The hospital administration consists of Administrator, Assistant Administrator, Stenographer and medical records clerk.

A new Nurses Residence also opened April, 1970 with rooms to accommodate 10 live-in Nurses and staff.

A new Medical-Dental Clinic opened in conjunction with the hospital has facilities for 2 Doctors and a Dentist with extended facilities if necessary.

The Town now has two Doctors and a Nurse receptionist. Other services include an ambulance, funeral parlor and a Drug Store.



The Oyen Municipal Hospital is well staffed and well equipped.

The Big Country Health Unit has one graduate Nurse and a part time clerk. The following services are provided by the center:

1. Immunization of pre-school children and school children.
2. Examination of any person residing in the Health Unit District.
3. Pre-natal and post-natal care.
4. Inspection of water and food supplies as well as Sanitary Inspection.
5. Pre-school check ups.
6. Immunization of Adults, shots etc.

24. PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED PERSONAL SERVICES (excluding Health Services)

Notary Public	1
Commissioners	8
Barbers	1
Beauty Parlors	2

25. TRANSPORTATION

Canadian National Railways - Truck freight service only, daily except Sundays.

Bus - Greyhound daily both East and West, Express and regular.

Truck - daily service to Calgary.

Local air strip - 2,640 foot runway.

26. NEWSPAPERS

Oyen Echo (bi-monthly)

Hanna Herald (weekly)

27. COMMUNICATIONS

Canadian National Telegraphs, Post Office, Alberta Government Telephones, nearest radio station - Drumheller (CJDV), community-owned Satellite (TV) CTV - Calgary; Channel 2, also Channel 4, Medicine Hat, CBC.

28. FINANCIAL FACILITIES

Toronto-Dominion Bank and Oyen and District Credit Union.

29. HOTELS

Alberta Hotel, 26 rooms, licensed lounge, rates: \$4.75 and up.

30. MOTELS

Olympic Motel, 7 rooms, 4 star accommodation, rates: \$8.00 and up.

Alberta Motel, 12 rooms, rates: \$7.50 and up.

31. CHURCHES

Anglican, Roman Catholic, United, Pentecostal - regular services.

Lutheran, Ukrainian Catholic and Greek Orthodox - irregular services.

32. LODGES AND SERVICE CLUBS

Masonic Lodge, Knights of Columbus, Eastern Star, Kinsmen, Kinettes, Lions, Royal Canadian Legion, Ladies Auxiliary Canadian Legion, Hospital Auxiliary, Chamber of Commerce and various church groups and auxiliaries.



Modern design has been applied in a fitting manner to this Oyen church.

33. SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Business Men's Association, Boy Scouts and Cubs, Red Cross, Fish & Game, Riding and Roping.

34. EDUCATION

Acadia School Division No. 8 operates Oyen Schools, offering Grades 1 to 12 with a semester system in use in the High School. Under this Division is Cereal, Sibbald, Acadia Valley, New Brigden, Express and the Acadia Hutterian Colony.

High School students from Sibbald, Esther and Grade 12 from Acadia Valley are bussed into the Oyen High School, with other areas to follow in the coming years.

An addition to the South Central High School in 1970 will extend the facilities to include a new Library, Home Economics and Industrial Arts, regulation size gymnasium and additional classrooms.

Assumption Separate School District No. 35 offers grades 1 to 9 inclusive.

The school population is made up as follows:

	Grades	No. of Teachers	No. of Pupils
Elementary -----	1-6	24	641
Junior High -----	7-9	14	302
High -----	10-12	14	230



Students from a wide area reach this modern high school by bus during the school year.

35. THEATRES AND HALLS

Oyen Theatre

Legion Hall

School Auditorium (Public)

School Auditorium (Separate)

New High School Auditorium - 1970

36. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Oyen Library is open Wednesday after school and Saturday afternoon. There were approximately 3,953 books on the shelves at the end of 1969.

The Oyen Recreation Board has operated since 1967. The major aims of this group are to provide a sports program for the citizens that can be enjoyed by all age groups; swimming, playground, hockey and figure skating, arts and crafts.

There is an annual Winter Carnival sponsored by the Oyen Kinsmen Club.

Youth Activities:

Boys: Cubs, 4-H Club, Youth Group, Lapidary, Riding and Roping Club, Drama and Choral group.



During the summer, the large well maintained pool and adjacent playground is popular.

Girls: C.G.I.T., 4-H Club, Youth Group, Lapidary, Riding and Roping Club, Drama and Choral Group.

Sports:

Hockey (senior, minor, bantam, midget, pee wee, tiny mites), curling, baseball, softball, basketball, golf.

Facilities:

Covered curling rink with three sheets of artificial ice, covered arena, children's playground sponsored by the Kinsmen Club, equipped with wading pool, fair grounds with race track, nine-hole golf course, three gymnasias, and fastball parks, heated swimming pool with swimming instruction and competitive swim classes offered. Oyen's centennial project was a three sheet artificial ice curling rink.

Fairs:

- Sports Day - annual event.
- 4-H Calf Club Show - annual event.
- Track Meet - annual school event.

Co-Operatives

Co-Op Bulk Gas and Oil Station, Co-Op Grocery and Hardware Store, Alberta Wheat Pool.



Major winter activity for young and old is curling, played in this large, modern rink.

Industry & Business:

Type of Industry & Business	No.	Type of Industry & Business	No.
Ambulance	1	Grain Elevators	2
Auto Body Repairs	1	Greenhouse	1
Barber	1	Groceries	2
Bank	1	Hardware	2
Beauty Parlors	2	Hotels	3
Building Contractors	2	Implements (Farm)	3
Butchers	2	Insurance	2
Cartage Delivery	1	Laundry (Coin)	1
Clothing (Men's)	4	Lumber Yard	1
Clothing (Women's and Children's)	4	Machine Shops	2
Car Wash	1	Motels	2
Doctors	2	Optometrist	1
Drug Store	1	Plumber	1
Dry Cleaners	1	Printer	1
Dry Goods	2	Propane Gas Dist.	2
Electrical Appliances	4	Radio and TV Repairs	1
Electrical Contractor	1	Restaurants	3
Florist	1	Real Estate Agent	1
Funeral Parlor	1	Sporting Goods	1
Furniture Store	1	Shoe Store	1
Garages & Service Stations	6	Tire and Vulcanizing	2
Glass	1	Welding	2

Sites:

The town has 8.5 acres of land which is set aside for industrial sites. An area of 12 acres is available for residential development. Other commercial and residential lots are available.

Industrial Development:

Farming is still the main industry in the Oyen area. There are about 85,000 acres of wheat planted every year.

The Alberta Gas Trunk Line has a gas collecting system from various Gas Companies owning wells in the area.

Trading Area:

North - 45 miles.

West - 36 miles.

South - 45 miles.

East - 33 miles.

Population:

Trading area population, approximately 8,570.

Town population, 1970 Census 978.



The Acadia Seed Processing Co-op provides services and revenue to members and others.

